

Date: May 19, 1994 BQC #94-039

To:	Hospitals	HOSP	<u>16</u>
	Nursing Homes	NH	<u>26</u>
	Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled	FDD	<u>19</u>
	Ambulatory Surgical Centers	ASC	<u>5</u>

From: Judy Fryback, Director
Bureau of Quality Compliance

Subject: Life Safety Code Regional Program Letter No. 94-04

Attached is a copy of Life Safety Code Regional Program Letter No. 94-04 from the Health Care Financing Administration Region V, Division of Health Standards and Quality. This letter communicates initial results of the reporting of fires in health care facilities survey (Regional Program Letter #93-10, BQC Memo No. 93-044). This letter is intended for your information, however it does recommend that heating elements in dryers be cleaned more often.

Please share this information with the appropriate staff. Direct any questions you may have to Stephen D. Schlough, P.E., Chief, Hospital and Health Services Section at the above address or telephone him at (608) 266-3878.

JF:JJF:pw 44.nm

Attachment

cc:	-BQC Staff	-St. Med. Society (Comm.Aging. . .)
	-Office of Legal Counsel	-WI Health Care Association
	-Ann Haney, DOH Admin.	-WI Assn. of Medical Directors
	-Kevin Piper, BHCF Dir.	-Admin., Division of Care and Treatment Facilities
	-HCFA, Region V	-WI Assn. of Hospital SW and Discharge Planners
	-Illinois State Agency	-Bd. on Aging & Long Term Care
	-Ohio State Agency	-Bur. of Design Prof., DRL
	-Michigan State Agency	-WI Hospital Assn
	-Indiana State Agency	-LTC BQC Memo Subscribers
	-Minnesota State Agency	-Non-LTC BQC Memo Subscribers
	-WI Coalition for Advocacy	-Mary Bunge, BPH
	-Serv. Employees Intn'l Union	-DD Board
	-WI Counties Assn.	-WI Surgery Ctr. Association
	-WI Health Info. Mgmt. Assn.	
	-WI Assn. of Homes & Serv/Aging	

Department of Health & Human Services
Health Care Financing Administration
Region V
105 West Adams Street
15th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603-6201

Refer to: CR24

April 1994

LIFE SAFETY CODE REGIONAL PROGRAM LETTER NO. 94-04

Subject: HAZARDS OF LAUNDRY DRYERS

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that based on the reporting of the fires in healthcare facilities survey (Program Letter #93-10), we have determined that the greatest single cause of fires are attributed to laundry dryers. Probably, the most often found problems will be the collection of lint around the heating element/burners and in the exhaust vents. Most staff are pretty good about cleaning the filter on a regular basis, however the heating element area is not cleaned often enough. Although, the study has not been completed yet, we are in the process of submitting to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) a Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) with regards to this problem. Please share this with your fire authorities and relevant State survey staff.

If you have any questions, please contact our Regional Engineer, Winston Dawson, at (312) 353-2852.

/s/ Winston Dawson
Regional Engineer
Survey & Certification Review Branch

/s/ Charles Bennett
Branch Chief
Survey & Certification Review Branch